

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (New): A process for producing a modified metal oxide sol, comprising:
producing a stannic oxide aqueous sol comprising stannic oxide particles, wherein sizes of the stannic oxide particles are from 4 to 50 nm, and a SnO₂ concentration of from 0.5 to 50 wt%;

hydrothermally treating the stannic oxide aqueous sol at a temperature of from 100 to 300°C;

mixing the hydrothermally treated stannic oxide aqueous sol with an aqueous solution of an oxyzirconium salt having a concentration of from 0.5 to 50 wt% as calculated as ZrO₂;

heating the obtained mixed liquid at a temperature of from 60 to 100°C for from 0.1 to 50 hours to prepare a stannic oxide-zirconium oxide composite aqueous sol having particle sizes of from 4 to 50 nm;

mixing the heated stannic oxide-zirconium oxide composite aqueous sol with an aqueous medium comprising Sb₂O₅ colloidal particles comprising an alkylamine, an oligomer thereof or a mixture thereof;

aging the aqueous mixture of the stannic oxide-zirconium oxide composite aqueous sol and aqueous medium comprising Sb₂O₅ colloidal particles comprising an alkylamine at a temperature of from 20 to 300°C for from 0.1 to 50 hours; and

contacting the aged aqueous mixture with an anion exchanger to remove anions present in the sol;

wherein

a weight ratio of ZrO₂/SnO₂ in the stannic oxide-zirconium oxide composite aqueous sol is from 0.05 to 0.50,

an alkylamine/Sb₂O₅ molar ratio in the Sb₂O₅ colloidal particles comprising an alkylamine is from 0.02 to 4.00, and

a weight ratio of Sb₂O₅/(SnO₂+ZrO₂) in the aqueous mixture of the stannic oxide-zirconium oxide composite aqueous sol and aqueous medium comprising Sb₂O₅ colloidal particles comprising an alkylamine is from 0.01 to 0.50, calculated as metal oxides.